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Breaking News

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POW lawsuits get boost

Japanese companies which used American prisoners of war as slave labor during World War II could be closer to being sued by survivors.

An amendment to next year's spending bill for the Commerce, State and Justice Departments, sponsored by San Jose U.S. Rep. Mike Honda and Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., was approved 395-33 last night. The amendment forbids the departments from spending any part of their budget on efforts to block the lawsuits.

"As someone who spent his first few years of life in an internment camp in Amache, Colo., for Japanese-Americans during World War II, I learned firsthand about injustice and about the redemption that redress and reconciliation can bring," Mr. Honda says.

U.S. World War II POWs have so far been blocked by the State Department from suing Japanese corporations which forced them to perform slave labor during their captivity, Mr. Honda says.

"It is shocking that the U.S. government continues to oppose to our veterans' claims against these Japanese companies, rather than helping them resolve this matter," Mr. Honda says. "We should not allow our own government to use the resources we appropriate to oppose our former POWs in court."



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